

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02

RSR-01 SCI-06 /180 W
----- 034165

R 261111 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018
INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: BOKASSA IMPLICITLY CRITICIZES LACK OF U. S. AID

1. FOLLOWING CEREMONY MARCH 23 AT WHICH SOVIETS TURNED OVER TO UNIVERSITY LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT FOR SCIENCE FACULTY, BOKASSA IN COURSE OF INFORMAL AND IMPROMPTU REMARKS TOOK TO TASK THOSE WHO HE FELT DID NOT AID CAR SUFFICIENTLY IN CONTRAST TO " TRUE FRIENDS" SUCH AS FRANCE, USS, AND WEST GERMANY. HE SAID IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED PUBLICLY THAT CENTRAL AFRICANS " WONDER AT THE LEVEL OF RELATIONS WE HAVE WITH (OTHER) COUNTRIES MORE AFFLUENT AND ADVANCED THAN US... AND WHETHER THESE COUNTRIES SHOULDN'T BE AIDING US NOW" WHEN MOST NEEDED. HE REFERRED TO " THOSE WHO MOST OFTEN COME TO US SAYING THEY NEED OUR COOPERATION ON SUCH AND SUCH A PROBLEM, AND WE ASK THEM TO THINK OF US ALSO." HE NOTED THERE ARE RICH COUNTRIES WHO COULD HELP CAR BUT WHO " SYSTEMATICALLY REFUSE," AND ASKED WHAT GOOD IT IS TO BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE THIS. REMARKS LATER BROADCAST OVER RADIO.

2. COMMENT: BOKASSA DID NOT SPECIFY OTHER COUNTRIES HE WAS REFERRING TO, BUT IT IS CLEAR HE WAS ALLUDING PRIMARILY TO U. S.
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REMARKS WERE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE ON SAME SUBJECT CONTAINED IN HIS SPEECH LAST DECEMBER 1. THEY WERE DELIVERED IN RELATIVELY MILD TERMS AND CONTAINED NO THREATS, BUT THEY DO SHOW BOKASSA'S CONTINUED UNDERLYING DISSATISFACTION WITH LOW LEVEL OF U. S. AID IN WHAT HE SEES AS INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS CONTRAST TO THAT GIVEN BY OTHER LARGE COUNTRIES.

3. IN SAME IMPROMPTU REMARKS BOKASSA PROCLAIMED MARCH 23 HENCE-FORTH AS " AMBASSADOR S' DAY," TO BE DEDICATED TO INAUGURATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS OF GIFTS FROM " FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." THIS WILL OF COURSE GIVE HIM A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY TO TOTE UP SCORE PUBLICLY AND MAKE FURTHER CONTRASTS.
ROESNTHAL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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